



CITY COUNCIL

Public Safety Committee

Monday, May 5, 2008
Meeting Report

Attendance: D. Sterner, Chair, S. Marmarou, M. Goodman-Hinnershitz

Others City Staff Attending: C. Younger, J. Khokhar, S. Katzenmoyer

I. Amendment to Disruptive Tenant Ordinance

The Committee reviewed the draft ordinance. They suggested several corrections:

- Eviction should begin after two DCR notices
- Remove the word diligently

The Committee also noted that the Appeals Board is the Disruptive Conduct Review Board of Appeals. This correction will be made throughout the ordinance.

Mr. Younger will add language that the Housing Permit will be revoked if there is no follow through on the part of the property owner.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz questioned how the public would become informed about this amendment. Mr. Younger noted that it would be in the same fashion as all ordinances and amendments. He encouraged Councilors to inform their community leaders.

The Committee would like the changes made by the May 12th regular meeting to allow for its introduction.

II. Solicitation and Canvassing Ordinance

The ordinance was further reviewed after public input was received.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz reviewed the updated draft. She noted that canvassing had been removed so the ordinance now applies to solicitation only. She read the definition of canvassing.

Mr. Younger will confer with Ms. Butler to see what her intent was with this change.

The Committee recommends bringing the ordinance to Council for final passage.

III. Implementation of Sidewalk Cafes and Sales Ordinances

There is no report. This will be addressed at the June Public Safety Committee meeting.

IV. Housing Permit Process

Mr. Khokhar reported that he has been authorized to hire six temps to complete the process. The applications will be complete by June 30. He noted that the City appears unprofessional due to the length of time it is taking to process these permits. He also noted the additional stress the process has placed on his clerks.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz expressed her belief that property owners are still trying to circumvent the process. She also noted her hope that these owners would leave the area when they are discovered and fined.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz questioned how the City learns of vacant properties. Mr. Khokhar noted that there is no system in place to track vacancies at this time. He noted that Codes currently depends on citizens to call them in.

Mr. Sterner noted the need for the City to enforce the need for out of town property owners to have a designated property manager. Mr. Khokhar noted that this would be enforced.

Mr. Sterner questioned if deconversions could be ordered on illegal conversions. Mr. Khokhar noted that they could but that it would be a long process in the Court of Common Pleas.

V. Other Business

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz noted her concern with the increased crime rate. She requested a report from Chief Heim at the June Public Safety Committee meeting.

Mr. Marmarou questioned why 941 N. 5th Street was given another 60 days to become compliant. Mr. Khokhar noted that the building inspectors requested the 60 days.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz requested discussing landlord education at the June meeting. She would like to discuss leases with the addition of a “no alcohol” clause for Albright students. Mr. Younger will research this possibility.

The Public Safety Committee meeting adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by
Shelly Katzenmoyer, Deputy City Clerk*